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1400 So. 19th Bozeman, MT 59718

November 6, 2000

Governor's Office, Julie Lapeyre, Room 204, State Capital, POB 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801 TO: Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Room 106, POB 201704, Helena, MT 59620 Dept. Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, POB 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901 Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Director's Office

Wildlife Division

Legal Unit

FWP Commissioners

Enforcement Division. Tim Feldner

Dennis Flath

MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, POB 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202

MT State Parks Association, POB 699, Billings, MT 59103

MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., POB 201800, Helena, MT 59620

James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624

Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, POB 595, Helena, MT 59624

George Ochenski, POB 689, Helena, MT 59624

Park County Commissioners, 414 E. Callender, Livingston, MT 59047

John Gatchell, Montana Wilderness Association, Box 635, Helena, MT 59624

Public Lands Access Association, William Fairhurst, Box 247, Three Forks, MT 59752

Jack Atcheson, State Lands Coalition, 3210 Ottowa Street, Butte, MT 59701

Jerry DiMarco, POB 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771

Wildlife Federation, POB 1175, Helena, MT 59624

Ira Holt, Wildlife Federation, 548 Cielo Vista, Hamilton, MT 59840

Wayne Hurst, POB 728, Libby, MT 59923

Glen Hockett, 745 Doane Road, Bozeman, MT 59715

Skyline Sportsman's Association, POB 173, Butte, MT 59701

Anaconda Sportsman's Club, #2 Cherry, Anaconda, MT 59711

Jefferson Valley Sportsman's Association, POB 663, Whitehall, MT 59759

Prickly Pear Sportsman's Association, 1721 Virginia Dale St., Helena, MT 59601

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a copy of the decision notice to allow the permitting of the Horatio Burns Shooting Preserve.

The comment period was from October 4, 2000 until 5:00 p.m., October 24, 2000.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Flowers Regional Supervisor

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DECISION NOTICE HORATIO BURNS SHOOTING PRESERVE PREPARED BY MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS November 6, 2000

PROPOSAL

The applicant proposes to establish a shooting preserve on 640 acres of rangeland. The business proposes to offer the shooting of pheasants, quail, chukar and Hungarian partridge by customers and the owner.

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) PROCESS

The proposal was outlined in an Environmental Assessment (EA) by FWP in compliance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). FWP is required to assess the impacts to the human and natural environment. The EA was available for public comment from October 4 through October 24, 2000. The document was sent to state and local government entities, sportsperson's groups and individuals who have expressed interest in shooting preserves.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

One comment was received during the comment period. That comment was from the Montana Historical Society, Historic Preservation Office.

Comment: A cultural resource file search for the project located at T4N, R7E, Section 31cited on the EA does not appear to match the location of the shooting preserve that is indicated on the map attached to the EA. On the attached map, the shooting preserve seems to be located in Sections 13, 14, 23 of T4N, R7E. The entire Township and Range of 4N, 7E was searched. Those records indicate that there are currently no previously recorded cultural properties within any of the sections searched. In addition, their files show that there have been no cultural resource inventories previously conducted in any of the above mentioned sections. It is also felt that since this project does not involve ground disturbance and in fact maintains the current land use, it has a low potential for impacting cultural properties and therefore a cultural resource inventory is not warranted at this time. However, should cultural materials be identified in the future they ask that their office be contacted and the site investigated.

Response: Their findings were correct. The legal description should have read eight miles NW of Wilsall, MT; parts of Section 13, 14, 23 and 24 of T4N, R7E.

DECISION

Utilizing the EA and public comment, a decision must be rendered by FWP, which addresses concerns, and issues identified for this proposed shooting preserve. Based on the findings of the EA that established no significant impacts, an EIS is not required and it is my decision to approve the permit for the Horatio Burns Shooting Preserve. A permit will be issued upon completion of requisite activities (signing, etc.) and final facility inspection by FWP personnel (87-4-501 MCA, 87-4-502 MCA).

Patrick J. Flowers Regional Supervisor